

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 29 (currently amended): A cannula for the collection of exhaled gases from a patient having nostrils, and for the supply of oxygen to the patient, comprising:

a tube having at least two exhaled gas inlets ~~one of a first nasal prong~~ for the collection of said exhaled gases from the patient;

at least one oxygen delivery tube configured to be located near the nostrils of the patient; and

at least two oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ associated with said at least one oxygen delivery tube ~~and being disposed,~~ said cannula being configured such that said oxygen outlets are disposed generally symmetrically relative to the nostrils of the patient, such that said oxygen flows from said at least one oxygen delivery tube through said oxygen outlets into the region of both of the nostrils of the patient, said oxygen outlets being such as to provide an oxygen stream in the region of the nostrils having a ~~reduced~~ sufficiently low ~~so that~~ exhaled gases collected from said nostrils are generally undiluted by said oxygen, at least said at least two exhaled gas inlets being embodied in a pair of nasal prongs.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The cannula according to claim 29, and wherein said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ are such as to create an oxygen cloud near the nostrils of the patient, so that exhaled gases collected from said nostrils are generally undiluted by said oxygen.

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Claim 31 (currently amended): The cannula according to claim 29, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises at least one hole in the wall of said oxygen delivery tube, said at least one hole possessing an internal diameter which increases from the inner surface of said oxygen tube to the outer surface of said oxygen tube.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The cannula according to claim 30, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises at least one hole in the wall of said oxygen delivery tube, said at least one hole possessing an internal diameter which increases from the inner surface of said oxygen tube to the outer surface of said oxygen tube.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The cannula according to claim 29, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ contains a screen made of a substantially porous material.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The cannula according to claim 30, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ contains a screen made of a substantially porous material.

Claim 35 (original): The cannula according to claim 33, and wherein said screen is constructed of a material selected from at least one of the group consisting of a hydrophobic porous material, a wide mesh, cotton wool, and a netting.

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Claim 36 (original): The cannula according to claim 34, and wherein said screen is constructed of a material selected from at least one of the group consisting of a hydrophobic porous material, a wide mesh, cotton wool, and a netting.

Claims 37-38 (canceled) ✓

Claim 39 (currently amended): The cannula according to claim 29, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises a plurality of holes.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The cannula according to claim 30, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises a plurality of holes.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method of collecting exhaled gases from a patient having nostrils, and of supplying oxygen to the patient, the method comprising the steps of (a) providing a cannula featuring:

a tube having at least two exhaled gas inlets ~~one of a fist nasal prong~~ for the collection of said exhaled gases; and

at least one oxygen delivery tube, having associated with it at least two oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~; and

(b) disposing said cannula such that said oxygen flows from said at least one oxygen delivery tube through said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ generally symmetrically into the region of both of the nostrils of the patient, said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ being such as to provide an oxygen stream in the region of the nostrils having a ~~reduced~~ sufficiently low ~~so that~~

exhaled gases collected from said nostrils are generally undiluted by said oxygen, at least said at least two exhaled gas inlets being embodied in a pair of nasal prongs.

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Claim 42 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 and wherein said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ are such as to create an oxygen cloud near the nostrils of the patient so that exhaled gases collected from said nostrils are generally undiluted by said oxygen.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises at least one hole in the wall of said oxygen delivery tube, said at least one hole possessing an internal diameter which increases from the inner surface of said oxygen tube to the outer surface of said oxygen tube.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, ~~d~~ and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises at least one hole in the wall of said oxygen delivery tube, said at least one hole possessing an internal diameter which increases from the inner surface of said oxygen tube to the outer surface of said oxygen tube.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method of claim 41 and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ contains a screen made of a substantially porous material.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of claim 42 and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ contains a screen made of a substantially porous material.

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Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 45, and wherein said screen is constructed of a material selected from at least one of the group consisting of a hydrophobic porous material, a wide mesh, cotton wool, and a netting.

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Claim 48 (original): The method of claim 46, and wherein said screen is constructed of a material selected from at least one of the group consisting of a hydrophobic porous material, a wide mesh, cotton wool, and a netting.

Claims 49-50 (canceled)

Claim 51 (currently amended): The method of claim 41, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises a plurality of holes.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets ~~inlets~~ comprises a plurality of holes.

Claim 53 (new): The cannula of claim 29, and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets comprises a second nasal prong substantially shorter in length than said exhaled gas inlet nasal prongs.

Claim 54 (new): The cannula of claim 53, and wherein said second nasal prong is constructed of an inner and an outer cylinder permeable to oxygen.

Claim 55 (new): The cannula of claim 53, and wherein said second nasal prong is sufficiently short that said it does not penetrate a nostril of the patient.

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Claim 56 (new): The cannula of claim 29, and wherein a portion of said oxygen tube is formed of a substantially porous material.

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Claim 57 (new): The method of claim 41, and wherein and wherein at least one of said oxygen outlets comprises a second nasal prong substantially shorter in length than said exhaled gas inlet nasal prongs.

Claim 58 (new): The method of claim 57, and wherein said second nasal prong is constructed of an inner and an outer cylinder permeable to oxygen.

Claim 59 (new): The method of claim 57, and wherein said second nasal prong is sufficiently short that said it does not penetrate a nostril of the patient.

Claim 60 (new): The method of claim 41, and wherein a portion of said oxygen tube is formed of a substantially porous material.